

7. (Amended) A user interface for an Internet-enabled television system, the user interface comprising:

- a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet related content;
- a personalized category area which includes a plurality of personalized content categories and which provides access to content in those personalized content categories;
- a personal monitoring area for monitoring a plurality of types of personal communications and for providing access to interfaces for those types of personal communications;
- a first side of the display area along which the personalized category area is aligned;
- a second side of the display area along which the personal monitoring area is aligned, wherein the first and second sides are perpendicular to each other so as to form a L-shaped configuration,
- wherein a first pair of arrows of an input device are used to navigate among categories in the personalized category area, and where a second pair of arrows on the input device are used to navigate among features in the personal monitoring area,
- wherein switching from navigation among categories in the personalized category area to navigation among features in the personal monitoring area occurs automatically upon switching from use of the first pair of arrows to use of the second pair of arrows, and
- wherein switching from navigation among features in the personal monitoring area to navigation among categories in the personalized category area occurs automatically upon switching from use of the second pair of arrows to use of the first pair of arrows; and
- a non-personalized user interface mode comprising:
  - the display area;

a group of primary controls;  
a plurality of groups of context-sensitive controls;  
a third side of the display area along which the group of primary controls are aligned;  
a fourth side of the display area along which the group of context-sensitive controls are aligned;  
a third pair of arrows of an input device for controlling navigation among the primary controls; and  
a fourth pair of arrows on the input device for controlling navigation among the context-sensitive controls;  
wherein switching from navigation among the primary controls to navigation among the context-sensitive controls occurs automatically upon switching from use of the third pair of arrows to use of the fourth pair of arrows,  
wherein switching from navigation among the context-sensitive controls to navigation among the primary controls occurs automatically upon switching from use of the fourth pair of arrows to use of the third pair of arrows,  
wherein the third and fourth sides of the display are opposite to the first and second sides of the display.

Please add new claims 9-27 as follows:

9. (New) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the personal monitoring area comprises a notification of an incoming personal communication.

10. (New) The user interface of claim 9, wherein the incoming personal communication comprises an email message.
11. (New) The user interface of claim 9, wherein the incoming personal communication comprises an instant message.
12. (New) The user interface of claim 9, wherein the notification of an incoming personal communication comprises an indication a sender's identity.
13. (New) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the personal monitoring area comprises a plurality of notifications of incoming personal communications.
14. (New) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the personalized monitoring area comprises a reminder message.
15. (New) The user interface of claim 14, wherein the reminder message notifies a user concerning upcoming television programming.
16. (New) The user interface of claim 1, wherein the personal monitoring area comprises a communication from a user desiring to establish a shared viewing experience.
17. (New) The user interface of claim 2, wherein the personalized content area selectively displays content related to a user's interests.

18. (New) The user interface of claim 2, wherein the personalized content area selectively displays content related to a user's geographic location.

19. (New) The user interface of claim 2, wherein the personalized content categories displayed in the personalized content area are user-configurable.

20. (New) A user interface for an Internet-enabled television system, the user interface comprising:

a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet related content;

a user-customizable category area which includes a plurality of content categories and which provides access to content in those content categories;

a content area for displaying content personalized to a particular user in a selected content category; and

a personal monitoring area for monitoring personal communications, for notifying a user concerning incoming communications, and for providing access to an interface for receiving the incoming communications.

21. (New) The user interface of claim 20, wherein a notification of an incoming personal communication comprises an indication a sender's identity.

22. (New) The user interface of claim 20, wherein the personalized monitoring area comprises a reminder message.

23. (New) The user interface of claim 22, wherein the reminder message notifies a user concerning upcoming television programming.

24. (New) The user interface of claim 20, wherein the personal monitoring area comprises a communication from a user desiring to establish a shared viewing experience.

25. (New) The user interface of claim 20, wherein the personalized content area selectively displays content related to a user's interests.

26. (New) The user interface of claim 20, wherein the personalized content area selectively displays content related to a user's geographic location.

27. (New) A user interface for an Internet-enabled television system, the user interface comprising:

a display area for displaying broadcast television and Internet related content;

a user-customizable category area which includes a plurality of content categories and which provides access to content in those content categories;

a content area for displaying content personalized to a particular user in a selected content category;

a personal monitoring area for monitoring personal communications, for notifying a user concerning incoming communications, and for providing access to an interface for receiving the incoming communications;

a first side of the display area along which the personalized category area is aligned; and  
a second side of the display area along which the personal monitoring area is aligned,  
wherein the first and second sides are perpendicular to each other so as to form a L-  
shaped configuration,

wherein a first pair of arrows of an input device are used to navigate among categories in  
the personalized category area, and where a second pair of arrows on the input device are used to  
navigate among features in the personal monitoring area,

wherein switching from navigation among categories in the personalized category area to  
navigation among features in the personal monitoring area occurs automatically upon switching  
from use of the first pair of arrows to use of the second pair of arrows, and

wherein switching from navigation among features in the personal monitoring area to  
navigation among categories in the personalized category area occurs automatically upon  
switching from use of the second pair of arrows to use of the first pair of arrows.